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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,129	07/13/2001	Paz Einat	540579-2007.2	8980

7590 01/29/2003

Thomas J. Kowalski
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

EXAMINER

LU, FRANK WEI MIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1634	16

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/905,129	EINAT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Frank W Lu	1634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-9, 11-20 and 22-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10 and 21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12,13 . 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 6, 7, 10, 21, and 22, SEQ ID NO: 21 and species of administering an isolated polypeptide (claim 21) in Paper No. 15 is acknowledged. Therefore, claims 10 and 21 will be examined.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in example 23 (page 75), the specification cites a reference from Crowl and Luk without providing the volume and page number of the Journal.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

This rejection was made based on applicant election of SEQ ID NO: 21.

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In *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731,737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) the court considered the issue of enablement in molecular biology. The Court summarized eight factors to be considered in a determination of "undue experimentation". These factors include: (a) the quantity of experimentation necessary; (b) the amount of direction or guidance presented; (c) the presence or absence of working examples; (d) the nature of the invention; (e) the state of the prior art; (f) the relative skill of those in the art; (g) the predictability of the art; and (h) the breadth of the claims. The Court also stated that although the level of skill in molecular biology is high, results of experiments in molecular biology are unpredictable.

To begin, there is no direction or guidance in the specification to show to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 21 and/or its fragments can be used to prevent or treat or control osteoporosis . While the relative skill in the art is very high (the Ph.D. degree with laboratory experience), there is no predictability whether polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 21 and its fragments can be used to prevent or treat or control osteoporosis.

The invention relates to a method for preventing or treating or controlling osteoporosis using a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 21 and its fragments. The specification (see pages 75 and 76) only shows that SEQ ID NO: 21 is a proteoglycan derived from placenta and is named as Adlican. The specification concludes that Adlican has leucine-rich repeats and immunoglobulin region similar to those of the OCP protein although the overall homology between two proteins only range from 19.7% to 46.5%. With a such low homology to OCP protein, in the absence of a persuasive evidence, it is difficult to image that Adlican and OCP protein have a similar functions. Furthermore, although the specification states "Adlican can be used for treatment and/or

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prevention of osteoarthritis, osteopetrosis, and osteosclerosis" (see page 76, first paragraph), the specification does not provide any evidence to show the functions of Adlican. Specifically, how Adlican and its fragments can be used to prevent or treat or control osteoporosis.

Clearly, there will be a lot of unpredictable factors when the skilled artisan uses the claimed method to prevent or treat or control osteoporosis and the skilled artisan will have no way to predict the experimental results. Such efforts constitute undue experimentation. The undue experimentation at least includes to test whether Adlican and its fragments can be used to prevent or treat or control osteoporosis.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the gene" in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim since there is no phrase "a gene" in the claim.

8. Claim 21 is rejected as vague and indefinite because claim 21 lacks antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim since there is no SEQ ID NO: 21 in claim 1. Note that claim 21 is dependent on claim 16, which is further dependent on claim 1.

Conclusion

9. No claim is allowed.

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10. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CAR § 1.6(d)). The CM Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Lu, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 305-1270. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached on (703) 308-1152.

An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the patent Analyst of the Art Unit, Ms. Chantae Dessau, whose telephone number is (703) 605-1237.

Frank Lu
January 23, 2003



Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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